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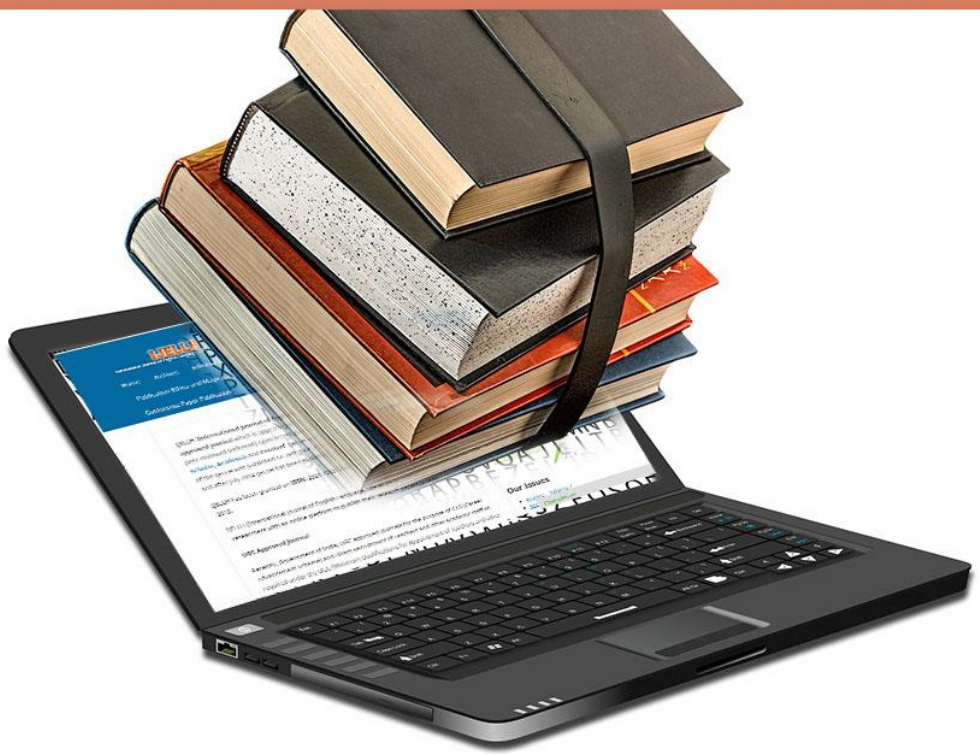

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Honorifics in Agreement of English, Hindi and Angika

Abstract

This study aims at making Honorifics in Agreement of English, Hindi and Angika basically to find out the differences in the area of syntax. It is a well-known fact that because of the interferences of one's mother tongue (L_1) and in case of our national language Hindi (L_2), lots of errors are made in the structure of English sentences. The agreement of the verbs with pronouns in Hindi and Angika is more related to socio-linguistics because the honorific use of second and third person pronouns affect the choice of verbs in these two languages, particularly in Angika. The agreement features in Angika and HIndi always affect the learning process in English sentence structure which has earned for itself the undisputed status of the only international language around the globe.

Key words: - English as an international language, interference of language, effect of Honorifics.

Introduction

This paper is an attempt to make Honorifics in Agreement of English, Hindi and Angika mainly to know the diversification in the realm of syntax. The scientific study of a language is dealt with four levels- Phonological (the sound system of a language), Morphological (up to the level of words), Syntactic (up to the level of sentences which

includes phrases and clauses), and Semantic (beyond the level of sentences involving meaning, like discourse analysis). The study will discuss the impact of the agreement of honorifics in all these three languages. In the words of Steele (1978:610)[1]:- "The term agreement commonly refers to some systematic covariance between a semantic or formal property of one element and a formal property of another".

The features of agreement always invited the attention of Linguists across the world who were trying to make comparative and contrastive study of different languages to find out the similarities and dissimilarities in the structure of different languages. Each regional dialect and language has its own rules and these rules and structures are already there in the minds of those who want to learn a foreign language and there is always the possibility of interference in one way or the other on the target language. This is more crucial in the case of learning English which is only a global language.

Here it is thought of undertaking honorifics in agreement of these three languages primarily because Angika happens to be the first language(L_1) for the majority of people in this area spread over more than half a dozen districts, Hindi being the second language(L_2) and English being (L_3), a foreign language. Since sentence structure at the discourse level basically involves the agreement features in a language. So it is decided to first go for analyzing the status of these languages.

English

English first came into existence roughly in the form in which we know it today around 1350. For 250 years, until 1600, English was spoken only in England, probably not even by all seven million inhabitants but then between 1600 and 1750 were sown the seeds of today's global spread of English. Graddol (1997)[2] says that there were two preconditions for establishing English as a global language; first the British empire with its communities of English speakers settled around the world and the ride of the U.S. in the 20th century as the

world superpower. Second for the English, the aftermath of World War II was decisive. According to Eco (1995)[3] had Hitler won World War II and we should probably today use German as a global language. Crystal (1997)[4] estimates that after the end of WW II, several international agencies were established to help reconstruction and 85% of these international organizations cite English as a working language, as opposed to 63% French and 40% German. Besides the international agencies, there were the financial institutions also created after the WW II that helped the spread of the English language.

Hindi

Hindi is our national language which is a direct descendent of Sanskrit through Prakrit and Apabhramsha. It is the language of the masses Particularly in North India. It is the language of general communication in our country. It can convey emotions using simple and gentle words. It can also be used for exact and rational reasoning.

The Indian constitution adopted in 1950, declares that Hindi shall be written in Devnagri script and will be the official language of the Federal Government of India.

Angika

Angika is the oldest dialect in Bihar and in the great Buddha literature "Lalit vistar", Angika has been listed at the fourth position in a list of 64 dialects of that time. In the age of Buddha, Modern Bihar was divided into three major areas known as Maha Janpad which were Anga, Magadh and Bazzi and Angika is the dialect of that very Anga janpad which is sopken in the Anga region of India, a 58000km area that falls within the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and west Bengal. According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, "Angika is spoken by nearly 7,25000 people in India and considered to be one of the oldest languages of the World".

The name Angika first appeared in the 1961 census and now serious efforts are being made to first get it recognized by the "Sahitya Akademi," and then get it included in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution.

Honorifics in Agreement of all the three languages (English, Hindi and Angika)

English

English does not have any system of Honorific minus (□), Zero (0), Plus (+H, ++H), Agreement doesn't create any problem. Gender also does not affect any change in verbal endings and they remain the same. Here Honorific minus stands for Non-honorific which is used for persons belonging to the lower level of social structure to whom no respect whatsoever is intended or in the cases of extreme familiarity. Honorific zero (0) is used for friends, by father to son and in such cases of familiarity and honorific (+H, ++H) is used for respected persons. For example:-

In English First person: - I, We

Second person: - You

Third person: - He, She, It, Name, They

Present Tense

Present simple: - I (+&□M) read. Note: -

We (+&□M) read. +M ___ Masculine

You (+&□M) read. □M ___ Feminine

He (+M) reads.

She (□M) reads.

They (+&□M) read.

Present Progressive: - I (+&□M) am reading.

We (+&□M) are reading.

You (+&□M) are reading.

He (+M) is reading.

She (□M) is reading.

They (+&□M) are reading.

Present perfect: - I (+&□M) have read.

We (+&□M) have read.

You (+&□M) have read.

He (+M) has read.

She (□M) has read.

They (+&□M) have read.

Present perfect continuous:- :- I (+&□M) have been reading.

We (+&□M) have been reading.

You (+&□M) have been reading.

He (+M) has been reading.

She (□M) has been reading.

They (+&□M) have been reading.

Hindi

R.S. McGregor in his outline of Hindi Grammar (2nd ed. 1977) has critically examined the use of tu , tum , aap and says that care must be exercised in using the pronouns aap , tum , and tu which have different honorific values. In normal educated usage aap is the pronoun of address to one's seniors. aap kaise hain (How are you?), tum expresses divergence from high honorific reference. It is used by Hindi speakers in addressing many relatives (especially those not senior to the speakers), quite often in addressing close friends and regularly in addressing persons of lower social status than the speaker like servants, rickshaw pullers and labourers, e.g

tum kahan jate ho?

'tu' expresses feelings of great intimacy or informality and also of contempt, disgust etc. One strange thing to note here is that 'tu' is both (□) honorific pronominal form as well as the most affectionate (++) honorific form. e.g- tu (□H) gadha hai.

tu (++H) raksha kar maan.

Here we shall also see the verbal endings change according to the level of honorifics:-

Present tense

Present simple:-

Eng : - I(+&□M) read.

Hindi: - Main (+M) padhta hun.

Main (□M) padhti hun.

Hamlog (+&□M) padhte hain.

Tu (□H,+M) padhta hai.

Tu (□H,□M) padhti hai.

Tum (0H,+M) padhte ho.

Tum (0H,□M) padhti ho.

Aap (+H,+M) padhte hain.

Aap (+H,□M) padhti hain.

Vah (Sing,+M) padhta hai.

Vah (Sing., □M) padhti hai.

Ve (PI., +M) padhte hain.

Ve (Sing., +M,+H) padhte hain.

Ve (Pl.,□M) padhti hain.

Ve (Sing.,+H,□M) padhti hain.

Present progressive:- Main (+M) padh raha hun.

Main (□M) padh rahi hun.

Hamlog (+&□M) padh rahe hain.

Tu (□H,+M) padh raha hai.

Tu (□H,□M) padh rahi hai.

Tum (0H,+M)padh rahe ho.

Tum (0H,□M)padh rahi ho.

Aap (+H,+M) padh rahe hain.

Aap (+H,□M) padh rahi hain.

Vah (Sing,+M) padh raha hai.

Vah (Sing., □M) padh rahi hai.

Ve (PI., +M) padh rahe hain.

Ve (Sing., +M,+H) padh rahe hain.

Ve (Pl.,□M) padh rahi hain.

Ve (Sing.,+H,□M) padh rahi hain.

Present perfect: - Main (+M) padh chuka hun.

Main (□M) padh chuki hun.

Hamlog (+&□M) padh chuke hain.

Tu (□H,+M) padh chuka hai.

Tu (□H,□M) padh chuki hai.

Tum (0H,+M)padh chuke ho.

Tum (0H,□M)padh chuki ho.

Aap (+H,+M) padh chuke hain.

Aap (+H,□M) padh chuki hain.

Vah (Sing,+M) padh chuka hai.

Vah (Sing., □M) padh chuki hai.

Ve (PI., +M) padh chuke hain.

Ve (Sing., +M,+H) padh chuke hain.

Ve (Pl.,□M) padh chuki hain.

Ve (Sing.,+H,□M) padh chuki hain.

Present perfect continuous:- Main (+M) padhta raha hun.

Main (□M) padhti rahi hun.

Hamlog (+&□M) padhte rahe hain.

Tu (□H, +M) padhta raha hai.

Tu (□H, □M) padhti rahi hai.

Tum (0H, +M)padhte rahe ho.

Tum (0H, □M)padhti rahi ho.

Aap (+H, +M) padhte rahe hain.

Aap (+H,□M) padhti rahi hain.

Vah (Sing,+M) padhta raha hai.

Vah (Sing., □M) padhti rahi hai.

Ve (PI., +M) padhte rahe hain.

Ve (Sing., +M,+H) padhte rahe hain.

Ve (Pl.,□M) padhti rahi hain.

Ve (Sing.,+H,□M) padhti rahi hain

Angika

Like English, Angika nouns and pronouns show three kinds of persons:- The first person, the second person and the third person. But unlike English, Angika has different levels of honorifics also. A verb always agrees with the level of honorifics.

The first person has no variation for honorifics. The second and the third person have three levels of honorifics:-

(i) Honorifics +H, ++H

(ii) Mid-honorific 0H

(iii) Non-honorific □H

The pronouns used for all the three persons are:-

1st person: hammeyn [+H, □H]

2nd person: ahaan [++H], apne [+H], toyn [□H&0H]

3rd person: veyn [□H,0H] (remote)

huni [+H] (remote)

hini [+H] (proximate)

yen [□H,0H] (proximate)

Honorifics of the 1st person [+H&-H] are the same. Mid-honorific and non-honorific second person pronouns are the same and so also are the third person honorific and non-honorific.

Here the verb can agree with person and also with its level of honorifics. By and large gender also does not play any role. All these changes can be observed in the following sentences:-

English: - I read. You read. He reads.

We read She reads.

They read.

Angika : - Hammeyn (+H) padhai chhiai/chhihaun.

Hammeyn (□H) padhai chhiai/ chhiau.

Hammeyn sab/sani/sini(+H) padhai chhiai/chhihaun

Hammeyn sab/sani/sini(□H) padhai chhiai/chhiau.

Toyn (□H) padhai chhain.

Toyn (0H) padhai chho/ chhaho/chhoho.

Apne (+H) padhai chhiai/chhathin.

Ahan (++H) padhai chhiai/chhathin.

veyn/yen (□H) padhai chhai/chhou.

veyn/yen (0H) padhai chhaun/chhahaun.

Huni/Hini (+H) padhai chhai/chhathin.

veyn/yen sab /sani/sini(□H) padhai chhai/chhou.

veyn/yen sab/sani/sini(0H)padhai chhaun/chhahaun

Huni/Hini sab/sani/sini(+H) padhai chhai/chhathin.

It is important to note that the verbal endings of first, second and Third person pronouns are not the same. It can be seen that in all the tenses present, past and future, the personal endings (affixed with the last verbal element) are marked according to the person and honorifics of the subject.

The agreement of the verbs with pronouns in Hindi and Angika is more related to socio-linguistics because the honorific use of second and third person pronouns affect the choice of verbs in these two languages, particularly in Angika.

Conclusion: - English has acquired for itself the status of the only international or global language and is rightly called the window on the world so it is the need of the hour to learn it well. This study will help to the teachers responsible for the teaching of English as a second or foreign language to find out the errors, the learners of English make in the structure of English sentences because of the interferences of the mother tongue (L_1) and the national language (L_2).These interferences of languages must be removed so that our English must be intelligible, acceptable and job oriented.

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